IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of)
)
Mark Robert WATKINS *et al.*)
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Application Number: To be Assigned)
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Filed Concurrently Herewith)
)
For: UTILIZATION OF UNUSED DISK SPACE ON)
NETWORKED COMPUTERS)
)

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

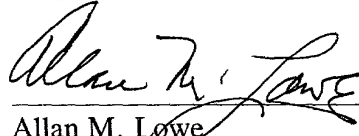Please replace the below claims as follows:

1.   (Amended.) A network of computers comprising:

a plurality of individual computer devices each having a non-volatile data storage device and each having means for communicating with at least one other one of said plurality of computers;

each said non-volatile data storage device being divided into a first data storage area reserved for use by the corresponding computer device, and a second data storage area reserved for backup storage of data contained in at least one said first data storage area of at least one other said non-volatile data storage device;

wherein each said individual computer device has a specific set of memory locations reserved on a said second data storage area of another of said non-volatile data storage devices in the network.

REMARKS

Applicants has amended claim 1 and the Abstract to remove reference numerals in them. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants are attaching a page of the claims and the Abstract showing the changes made. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of this amendment.

Prompt and favorable action on the merits of this application is earnestly solicited. Kindly direct any inquiries to the undersigned at the below-listed address and telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A plurality of computers in a network each have a processor and a non-volatile data storage device such as a hard disk, a raid array, or the like. Each data storage device is divided into a first data storage area and a second data storage area. The first data storage area is reserved for use by at least one processor to which it is assigned, whereas the second data storage area is hidden from use by the file system of the computer, and is used to store replicated data of other ones of the plurality of computer entities. In the event of failure of any one of the data storage devices, data can be recovered from the second data storage areas of the other data storage devices.

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Claims:

1.   A network of computers comprising:

5   a plurality of individual computer devices each having a non-volatile data storage device and each having means [(305)] for communicating with at least one other one of said plurality of computers;

each said non-volatile data storage device being divided into a first data storage area reserved for use by the corresponding computer device, and a

10   second data storage area reserved for backup storage of data contained in at least one said first data storage area of at least one other said non-volatile data storage device;

wherein each said individual computer device has a specific set of memory

15   locations reserved on a said second data storage area of another of said non-volatile data storage devices in the network.

2.   The network of computers as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

20   a sizer configured for selecting a size of a first and a second data storage area of each of said plurality of non-volatile data storage devices.

3.   The network of computers as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a finder for finding a plurality of non volatile data storage devices.

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4.   The network of computers as claimed in claim 1, further comprising;

a selector for selecting individual ones of said plurality of non volatile data storage devices.

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5.   The network of computers as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

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Abstract

UTILIZATION OF UNUSED DISK SPACE ON NETWORKED COMPUTERS

5   A plurality of computers in a network (503-505) each have a processor and a non-volatile data storage device (500-502) such as a hard disk, a raid array, or the like. Each data storage device is divided into a first data storage area (203-205) and a second data storage area (509-511). The first data storage area is reserved for use by at least one processor to which it is assigned, whereas the

10   second data storage area is hidden from use by the file system of the computer, and is used to store replicated data of other ones of the plurality of computer entities. In the event of failure of any one of the data storage devices, data can be recovered from the second data storage areas of the other data storage devices.

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